

JESSUP WATSON THOMAS

Jessup Watson Thomas was born in Center Creek, on October 6, 1878, a son of Joseph and Margaret Watson Thomas. Joseph Thomas, his father, was born in Council Bluffs, Iowa, and came to Utah with the Bryant Jolley company arriving September 9, 1852. Jessup's mother, Margaret Watson, was born in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Jessup was left an orphan at the age of seven but, coming from a large family of eleven, there were older brothers and sisters to take care of him.

Young Jessup was only exposed to an education. The long hike to the school located four miles from his home, early spring and late fall work, and the heavy snows of winter took him away from his school work much of the time.

At the age of twelve he was introduced to the work that he was to follow for many years of his life—he began to work with sheep. His first job was with George Coleman which took him into the Tooele area. For two years he helped care for the Coleman herds. The summer and winter ranges were not far apart in those days, the summer range being in the vicinity of Grantsville and the winter range just south in the Dugway region.

After two years of working for George Coleman, Jessup went to work for John Austin, a brother-in-law, and for the next twelve years stayed with the sheep most of the time.

It was at this time, after he worked for John Austin, that Jessup went into business for himself. He took his pay in sheep and from this beginning he became one of the leading ranchers in the State of Utah.

His sheep were summered in the area of Current Creek in Wasatch County, and the West Fork area on the Duchesne River and were trailed to the wintering grounds near Dugway and the Keg Mountains in western Utah. Wintering was also done in the area

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